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APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY THE CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DATE: 2001

Texts of Merger Letters and Order

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—The texts of exchanged letters and a proposed executive order of armed forces unification issued by the White House tonight are as follows:

The President's Letter

Letter from President Truman to Secretaries Patterson and Forrestal:

Jan. 16, 1947.

Gentlemen:

I am exceedingly pleased to receive your joint letter of Jan. 16 in which you advised that you have reached full and complete agreement on a plan for the unification of the armed services.

I recognize that each of the services has made concessions in the effort to reach this agreement, and I feel that it constitutes an admirable compromise between the various views that were originally held.

The agreement provides a thoroughly practical and workable plan of unification and I heartily approve it.

You have both worked ably and effectively with your respective staffs in bringing about this result. I appreciate your fine efforts and I congratulate you upon your accomplishment which I am sure will contribute greatly to the efficiency of our national defense.

Very sincerely yours,
HARRY S. TRUMAN.

Letter of Secretaries

Text of the letter signed jointly by Secretaries Patterson and Forrestal to the President:

Dear Mr. President:

On 31 May, 1946, we jointly submitted to you a letter which gave our respective views on the major elements involved in establishing a greater measure of unification of our armed forces.

In your letter of June 15, 1946, you expressed gratification at the progress made in narrowing the areas of the agreement which had previously existed between the services and stated your position with reference to the essential points on which disagreement still existed.

In our opinion the necessity for agreement between the military services is even greater than at the time of our earlier letter. We and our representatives have been meeting in an effort to secure further agreement, within the scope and spirit of the statement, of the position of the views of the two departments. We are pleased to report success in this undertaking.

Joint Program Is Stated

We agree to support legislation in which the following points are incorporated:

President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, I hereby prescribe the following assignment of primary functions and responsibilities to the three armed services.

SECTION I

The Common Missions of the Armed Forces of the United States Are:

1. To support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic.

2. To maintain, by timely and effective military action, the security of the United States, its possessions and areas vital to its interest.

3. To uphold and advance the national policies and interests of the United States.

4. To safeguard the internal security of the United States as directed by higher authority.

5. To conduct integrated operations on the land, on the sea and in the air necessary for these purposes.

In order to facilitate the accomplishment of the foregoing missions the armed forces shall formulate integrated plans and make coordinated preparations. Each service shall observe the general principles and fulfill the specific functions outlined below and shall make use of the personnel, equipment and facilities of the other services in all cases where economy and effectiveness will thereby be increased.

SECTION II

General Functions of the United States Army

The United States Army includes land combat and service forces and such aviation and water transport as may be organic therein. It is organized, trained and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained combat incident to operations on land.

The Army is responsible for the preparation of land forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war, and, in accordance with integrated joint mobilization plans, for the expansion of peacetime components of the Army to meet the needs of war.

Specific Functions of the United States Army Are:

1. To organize, train and equip land forces for:

A. Operations on land, including joint operations.

B. The seizure or defense of land areas, including airborne and joint amphibious operations.

C. The occupation of land areas.

2. To develop weapons, tactics,

tions shall be coordinated with the Air Force, including the development and procurement of aircraft, and air installations located on shore, and use shall be made of Air Force personnel, equipment and facilities in all cases where economy and effectiveness will thereby be increased. Subject to the above provision, the Navy will not be restricted as to types of aircraft maintained and operated for these purposes.

F. The air transport necessary for essential internal administration and for air transport over routes of sole interest to naval forces where the requirements cannot be met by normal air transport facilities.

2. To develop weapons, tactics, technique, organization and equipment of naval combat and service elements, coordinating with the Army and Air Force in all aspects of joint concern, including those which pertain to amphibious operations.

3. To provide, as directed by proper authority, such missions and detachments for service in foreign countries as may be required to support the national policies and interests of the United States.

4. To maintain the United States Marine Corps, whose specific functions are:

A. To provide marine forces together with supporting air components, for service with the fleet in the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and for the conduct of limited land operations in connection therewith.

B. To develop, in coordination with the Army and the Air Force those phases of amphibious operations which pertain to the tactics, technique and equipment employed by landing forces.

C. To provide detachments and organizations for service on armed vessels of the Navy.

D. To provide security detachments for protection of naval property at naval stations and bases.

E. To provide, as directed by proper authority, such missions and detachments for service in foreign countries as may be required to support the national policies and interests of the United States.

5. To assist the Army and the Air Force in the accomplishment of their missions, including the provision of common services and supplies as determined by proper authority.

SECTION IV

General Functions of the United States Air Force

The United States Air Force includes all military aviation forces, both combat and service, not oth-

C. There shall be a council of national defense, a national security resources board and a central intelligence agency (which should be created) to advise the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy in their duties to the President of 21 May, 1948.

D. The armed forces shall be organized under a secretary of national defense so as to place the Army, the Navy (to include the Marine Corps and Naval Aviation), and the Air Force, each with a military chief, under the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force respectively.

Each shall be under a secretary and, under the over-all direction of the secretary of national defense, shall be administered as an individual unit. The secretary of any of the three departments may, at any time, present to the President, after first informing the secretary of national defense, any report or recommendation relating to his department which he may deem necessary or desirable.

C. A war council shall be created consisting of the secretary of national defense as chairman and with power of decision, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, and the military heads of the three services. The war council will concern itself with matters of broad policy relating to the armed forces.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Urged

D. There shall be a joint chiefs of staff consisting of the military heads of the three services, and also the Chief of Staff to the President if that office exists.

Subject to the authority and direction of the Secretary of National Defense, the joint chiefs of staff, will provide for the strategic direction of the military forces of the United States, will formulate strategic plans, assign logistic responsibilities to the services and support thereof, integrate the military requirements such as directed, advise on the integration of the military budget.

E. There shall be a full-time joint staff to consist initially of not over 100 officers to be provided in approximately equal numbers by the three services. The joint staff, operating under a director thereof, shall carry out policies and directives of the joint chiefs of staff.

F. The Secretary of National Defense shall head the armed forces establishment, shall be vested with authority under the President to establish common policies and common programs for the integrated operations of the three departments and shall exercise control over and direct their common efforts to discharge their responsibility for national security.

We are agreed that the proper method of setting forth the functions (so-called roles and missions) of the armed forces is by the issuance of an executive order concurrently with your approval of the appropriate legislation. We submit for your consideration a mutually agreed draft of such an order.

Respectfully yours,
JAMES FORRESTAL,
Secretary of the Navy.
ROBERT P. PATTERSON,
Secretary of War.

Text of Order

Text of the executive order of the "functions of the armed forces" is as follows:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and as

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equipment of Army combat and service elements, coordinating with the Navy and the Air Force in all aspects of joint concern, including those which pertain to amphibious and airborne operations.

I. To provide, as directed by proper authority, such missions and detachments for service in foreign countries as may be required to support the national policies and interests of the United States.

J. To assist the Navy and Air Force in the accomplishment of their missions, including the providing of common services and supplies as determined by proper authority.

SECTION III

General Functions of the United States Navy

The United States Navy includes naval combat and service forces, naval aviation, and the United States Marine Corps. It is organized, trained and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained combat at sea.

The Navy is responsible for the preparation of naval forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war, and in accordance with integrated joint mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Navy to meet the needs of war.

The specific functions of the United States Navy are:

1. To organize, train and equip naval forces for:

A. Operations of sea, including joint operations.

B. The control of vital sea areas, the protection of vital sea lanes, and the suppression of enemy naval forces.

C. The support of occupation forces as required.

D. The seizure of minor enemy shore positions capable of reduction by such landing forces as may be comprised within the fleet organization.

E. Naval reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare, and protection of shipping.

The air aspects of these functions are now specifically assigned. It is organized, trained and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained air offensive and defensive operations.

The Air Force is responsible for the preparation of the air forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war except as otherwise assigned and, in general, in accordance with integrated joint mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Air Force to meet the needs of war.

The Specific Functions of the United States Air Force Are:

1. To organize, train and equip air forces for:

A. Air operations, including joint operations.

B. Gaining and maintaining general air supremacy.

C. Establishing local air superiority where and as required.

D. The strategic air force of the United States and strategic air reconnaissance.

E. Air lift and support for airborne operations.

F. Air support to land forces and naval forces, including support of occupation forces.

G. Air transport for the armed forces, except as provided by the Navy in accordance with Paragraph 1 F of Section III.

2. To develop weapons, tactics, techniques, organization and equipment of air force combat and service elements, coordinating with the Army and Navy on all aspects of joint concern, including those which pertain to amphibious and airborne operations.

3. To provide, as directed by proper authority, such missions and detachments for service in foreign countries as may be required to support the national policies and interests of the United States.

4. To provide the means for coordination of air defense among all services.

5. To assist the Army and Navy in accomplishment of their missions, including the providing of common services and supplies as determined by proper authority.